

A/B, 1, 20/2

21 July 1953

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Dear [REDACTED]

In the absence of [REDACTED] I am acknowledging with great interest and appreciation receipt of your letter and enclosures of 19 June 1953, reference DBRS 735-1-172 (DSI) and DBRS 2-61-301-1 (DSI).

In this acknowledgment we desire to point out in a preliminary way that initial efforts either have been made, or are under consideration in this country along the following lines:

1. Collection of ergot and the preparation of LSD as well as of other derivatives of lysergic acid for continued testing of volunteers and animals
2. Screening of other potential cerebral agents by use of special tests and methods, including the use of encephalographs
3. Survey of fungi and especially mushrooms, producing potent cerebral agents, e.g. *Clitocybe subilludens*, certain rusts, used to allay fear in Satellite countries, possibly China
4. Survey of ferns, as yet unidentified, producing through their spores, mental disturbances and even death (in animals).
5. Survey of Russian and other literature dealing with fungi used in medicine, in ceremonies and as intoxicants, narcotics or otherwise, excepting food
6. Survey and development of possible antidotes and other preventive measures against effects of cerebral agents
7. Up-to-date extensive bibliographies on
 - a. Lysergic acid and derivatives
 - b. Other agents of psychochemical interest
 - c. Anoxia and compounds causing mental disorders in man

In response to your question concerning anybody doing work in

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the United States similar to yours, inquiry is now being made to obtain further information regarding such work under way or planned.

A cooperative undertaking between our two countries may be profitable such as is now in progress in the study of Soviet research on cholinesterase. If you consider such collaboration desirable, we will be pleased to have your comments and suggestions for collaboration in a program of study.

Cordially yours,

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Acting Assistant Director